

NEWS RELEASE



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ATTENTION: EDITORS

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U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HONORS 2012 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will host the 2012 International Women of Courage Awards Ceremony with special guest First Lady Michelle Obama on Thursday, March 8, 2012, in Washington, D.C.

Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Vermeer and other U.S. and foreign dignitaries will also participate. Special guests this year include Ms. Leymah Gbowee and Ms. Tawakkol Karman, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates.

The prestigious Secretary of State's Award for International Women of Courage annually recognizes women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women's rights and empowerment, often at great personal risk. Since the inception of this award in 2007, the Department of State has honored 46 women from 34 different countries.

This year's honorees are:

- The Honorable Maryam Durani, Kandahar Provincial Council Member (Afghanistan);
- Major Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo, police officer, Rio de Janeiro Military Police (Brazil);
- Zin Mar Aung, political activist and NGO co-founder (Burma);
- Jineth Bedoya Lima, investigative journalist (Colombia);
- Hana Elhebshi, architect and political activist (Libya);
- Aneesa Ahmed, gender-based violence (GBV) activist and former Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs (Maldives);
- Shad Begum, human rights activist and founder/executive director of Anjuman Behbood-e-Khawateen Talah (the Union of Women's Welfare) (Pakistan);
- Samar Badawi, political activist (Saudi Arabia);
- Hawa Abdallah Mohammed Salih, human rights activist (Sudan);
- The Honorable Safak Pavey, Member of Parliament (Turkey)

The names of this year's honorees follow and full biographies and photos are available here:
<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/programs/iwoc/2012/bio/index.htm>

NOTE TO EDITOR:

The ceremony will be held at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 8 (Washington time/ Midnight between Thursday, March 8, 2012 and Friday, March 9, 2012), in the Dean Acheson Auditorium of the U.S. Department of State.


Secretary Clinton's speech will be live-streamed and available through:

<http://malaysia.usembassy.gov/streamvideo.html>

There will be more information available via social media:

- The speech will be "live" tweeted from the State Department's official Twitter feed (@StateDept)
- A Facebook badge titled "I Support Women of Courage" has been created on the State Department [Facebook](#) page and clicking on this will link to the webcast of the event.

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